

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 78

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004

INTRODUCED BY

Daniel R. Foley

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT TO CONTINUE WITH ITS
PLAN TO ALLOW ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE DRILLING ON
OTERO MESA.

WHEREAS, the United States depends on the availability of
energy supplies to protect the health and safety of its
residents, provide funding for services such as education and
financing infrastructure, provide economic stability and
provide continued economic progress and growth; and

WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico is a national leader in
the production of natural gas and oil, which benefits the
residents of New Mexico through the payment of taxes and
royalties, the creation of jobs and the provision of supplies
and services used by that industry and which benefits the
nation by supplying needed energy resources; and

underscored material = new
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1 WHEREAS, significant reserves of oil and natural gas are
2 located on federal lands controlled by the United States bureau
3 of land management of the department of the interior that are
4 deemed multiple-use lands, open to grazing, hunting, off-road
5 vehicles and oil and gas exploration; and

6 WHEREAS, the bureau of land management recently completed
7 an extensive planning process and published an amended resource
8 management plan for Otero mesa that takes into consideration
9 special conservation measures that would be applied in areas of
10 environmental concern and wilderness study areas in Otero and
11 Sierra counties; and

12 WHEREAS, oil and gas leasing will not be allowed in six
13 existing and eight proposed areas of environmental concern and
14 wilderness study areas totaling eighty-eight thousand two
15 hundred eighty-six acres, and leasing will be withheld from
16 core areas for the Aplomado falcon totaling thirty-five
17 thousand seven hundred ninety-three acres for at least five
18 years and until any effects of gas development in adjacent
19 areas are found and understood; and

20 WHEREAS, it is possible to regulate the development of
21 natural gas reserves using methods that protect the health and
22 safety of residents, provide for the multiple use of federal
23 lands, provide energy supplies for the benefit of the residents
24 of New Mexico and the nation and provide needed revenues for
25 governmental operations and economic growth; and

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 WHEREAS, the planned development of natural gas on Otero
2 mesa would only account for one thousand six hundred acres of
3 short-term surface disturbance and eight hundred acres of long-
4 term surface disturbance from well pads, roads and pipelines on
5 federal lands that total more than one million acres;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the bureau of land management of the
8 United States department of the interior be encouraged to
9 continue with its plans to allow drilling on Otero mesa and to
10 continue to study environmentally safe oil and gas development
11 on Otero mesa that will increase the availability of our
12 nation's energy resources, increase local, state and federal
13 government revenues from those resources, increase the economic
14 and job growth from energy production, ensure the use of the
15 Otero mesa for multiple purposes and appropriately protect the
16 environment of New Mexico; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bureau of land management
18 of the United States department of the interior be applauded
19 for taking the steps necessary to more efficiently and
20 effectively regulate federal lands and natural resources for
21 the benefit of the residents of New Mexico and the nation; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
23 transmitted to the governor, the state director of the bureau
24 of land management of the United States department of the
25 interior, the director of the bureau of land management, the

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underscored material = new
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1 secretary of the interior, the director of the White House task
2 force on energy project streamlining, the chair of the United
3 States senate committee on energy and natural resources, the
4 chair of the United States house of representatives committee
5 on resources and members of the New Mexico congressional
6 delegation.

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